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## Old Colony Memorial

Plymouth's newspaper online

Thursday, August 20, 1998



**This week**  
News & columns

"As time goes by" is a weekly column, compiled by [Nan Anastasia](#), that takes a look at local headlines and ads 100 years ago.

**As time goes by**

## Church bells and steam whistles

**Saturday, August 20, 1898**



**Sports**

**Classified**

**Weather**

**Our town**

Community  
information

**e-mail**

Contact us

**Calendar**

Events, visitor  
information



The Spanish-American War was over. The **Old Colony** published the terms of the peace signed at Washington on its front page. Inside, on the local page, the newspaper reported on Plymouth's response to the news on Saturday. "At noon all the church bells were rung and steam whistles all over town contributed to the noise, making such a racket that fishermen out in the bay got the idea that Plymouth had a big conflagration on its hands, and there was a general alarm. There was not the wild, delirious excitement observable in 1865, when the news of Lee's surrender arrived, but there was a heap of satisfaction visible."

Plymouth's Standish Guard was still at Camp Dalton with the Massachusetts Fifth Regiment. "The signing of the preliminary peace papers has given the guessers about the destination of the command a new chance," the paper reported. "The Fifth has, according to them, been destined for Cuba, Porto Rico, Hawaii and Luzon, as well as for coast defense."

The Cordage Company had made a new arrangement with the United States Weather Bureau to display daily forecasts from its flagstaff in North Plymouth, using signal flags. "They will be changed at noon daily and those using the signals as a weather indication should remember that any displayed before 12 o'clock apply only up to 8 p.m. that same day while flags shown after noon are signals up to 8 p.m. the following day," the newspaper reported. "There are four square flags used, white, indicating fair weather, blue, rain or snow, white and blue, local rain or snow, and white with a black square in the centre, cold wave. The temperature flag is a black triangle. The latter if above its accompanying flags means a rise in temperature and if below, the reverse. The signals will be displayed next Monday for the first time and are likely to be very useful to a large number of people."

About 20 members of the Plymouth Gun Club went on an outing to Plymouth Beach and spent the day trap shooting. A ladies handicap golf tournament was played Monday in Plymouth. The church improvement society at the Chiltonville Congregational Church was planning a fair Tuesday and Wednesday, and trolley hours had been extended. "For the convenience of visitors to the fair from town an electric car will leave the corner of Cliff street and Warren Avenue at 10.35 p.m."

The Massachusetts Yacht Racing Association held the first of its South Shore racing series in Plymouth Thursday. The regatta drew boats in six classes, 30-footers, 25-footers, 21-footers with cabins and open 21-footers, 18-footers and 15-footers. The first three classes sailed an 11-mile course from the judges' boat off the harbor clubhouse to Dick's Flat buoy and then around the whistling buoy off the Gurnet and back again. Smaller boats sailed over the "three mile triangle" three times.

A Carver farm was offering early morning milk deliveries in Plymouth. "Stanly Brothers, of South Carver, are out with announcement interesting to all householders who haven't a cow in their door yard and whose cellar isn't suitable for keeping ducks and hens," the **Old Colony** reported. "They own and operate a fine poultry farm near Sampson's Pond, recently bought out the Carver Milk Co. and will run a milk route in this town."

The brothers intended to arrive in Plymouth by 6 a.m., the report added. In addition to milk, they would supply cream, eggs and poultry, dressed, killed or alive.

The Cape Cod Cranberry Growers held its annual meeting Tuesday at Buzzards Bay. "It was voted after an extended discussion that the standard price for picking berries by hand should be seven cents per measure of six quarts," the newspaper reported. Members were also concerned about damage to bogs caused by insects, and they voted to ask a government agriculture expert to speak on the subject at their next annual meeting.

[Go to the top of the page](#)

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